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(Representing) Speaking in Favor:

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Vote Record

Senate - Committee on Insurance, Tourism, and Transportation

	Seconded by: Clearinghouse Rule:	6	
	Appointment: Other:		
to A/S Amdt: to A/S Sub Amdt: to A/S Amdt:		to A/S Sub Am	dt:
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Totals:	Aye No	Absent	Not Voting
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Concerned Auto Recyclers of Wisconsin

1055 Sunset Beach Road, Suamico,WI 54173 414-434-2179 Fax: 414-434-8055



Memorandum

To: Senator Roger Breske, Chair

Members of the Senate Committee on Insurance, Tourism and Transportation

From: Forbes McIntosh

Date: Wednesday, August 29, 2001

Re: Support Assembly Bill 290

On behalf of the Concerned Auto Recyclers of Wisconsin (CARS), I urge committee members to please support Assembly Bill 290 relating to prohibiting the installation of defective or dummy airbags.

This legislation is intended to save the lives of unsuspecting motorists and their passengers. Airbag theft is a crime that is sweeping across the nation, endangering the lives of motorists and their passengers. When airbag theft occurs often that airbag can be removed, replaced with an object of the same weight and size, and the cover replaced. Unfortunately, the driver may never realize that the airbag has been removed, which maybe the difference between life an death.

It is terrible when car theft occurs; but it is a tragedy when that theft kills an unsuspecting driver or passenger.

The Wisconsin law enforcement community and justice system, like most states, do not have the necessary tools they require to arrest and prosecute individuals who are found to be in possession of these stolen airbags, with your support this will be changed.

Again, on behalf of the Concerned Auto Recyclers of Wisconsin, please support passage of Assembly Bill 290.

Thank you.



Milwaukee Deputy Sheriffs' Association

Safety Building, 821 West State Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233 • (414) 276-5222 • Fax (414) 276-5295

To: Honorable Roger Breske, Chair

Members of the Senate Transportation Committee

From: Jerry Rieder

Date: Wednesday, August 29, 2001

Re: Support Assembly Bill 290

Prohibiting Installation of Fake or Dummy Airbags

Throughout the country airbag theft is becoming more common and is still one of the fastest growing problems plaguing car owners, car dealers and companies that own and operate fleets of automobiles. Airbag theft is booming across the country because of the value these life-saving devices; between \$600 - \$1,200, which does not include the cost associated with damage to the vehicle when the bag is stolen.

Airbag is often unsuspecting, that is when an airbag is stolen by a person working on your car you will never know the bag is missing until a serious accident occurs - by then it's too late. In larger cities, airbag theft is problem that can be attributed to other criminal activity, in particular the drug trade. Individuals who are addicted to illegal drugs often need large sums of money to finance their habit. Stealing airbags on demand or in large numbers gives addicts a ready source of easy cash to maintain their addiction.

As in many other states, the Wisconsin law enforcement community does not have the necessary tools we require to arrest and prosecute individuals who are found to be in possession of these stolen airbags, this legislation is intended to change that.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimated that between 1986 and 1997 air bags (inflatable restraint systems) saved 1,639 drivers and 189 passengers. Based on current levels of effectiveness, NHTSA estimates that air bags will save more than 3,000 lives each year in passenger cars and light trucks when all light vehicles are equipped with dual air bags. These statistics demonstrate that air bags play a crucial role in saving lives. Therefore, Wisconsin should have a particular interest in insuring that vehicle air bag systems meet the highest standards and protection from theft.

On behalf of the Milwaukee Deputy Sheriff's Association, I urge members of the Senate Committee on Transportation to please support passage of this lifesaving legislation.

Thank you.